

A Strategy for Homeless Prevention

in Worcester, Massachusetts

Grace Carmark, Executive Director

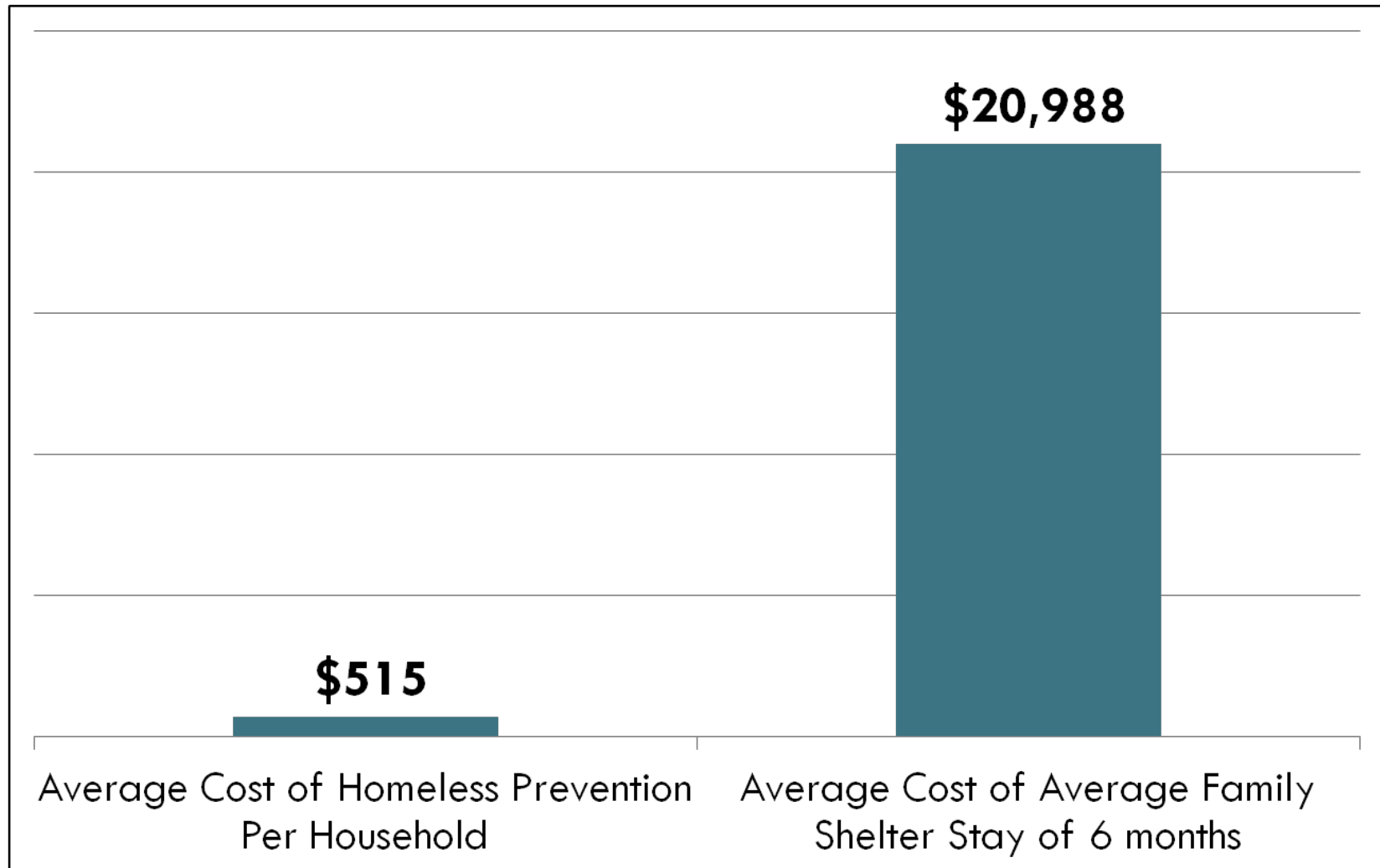
The Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Inc.



November 13, 2012

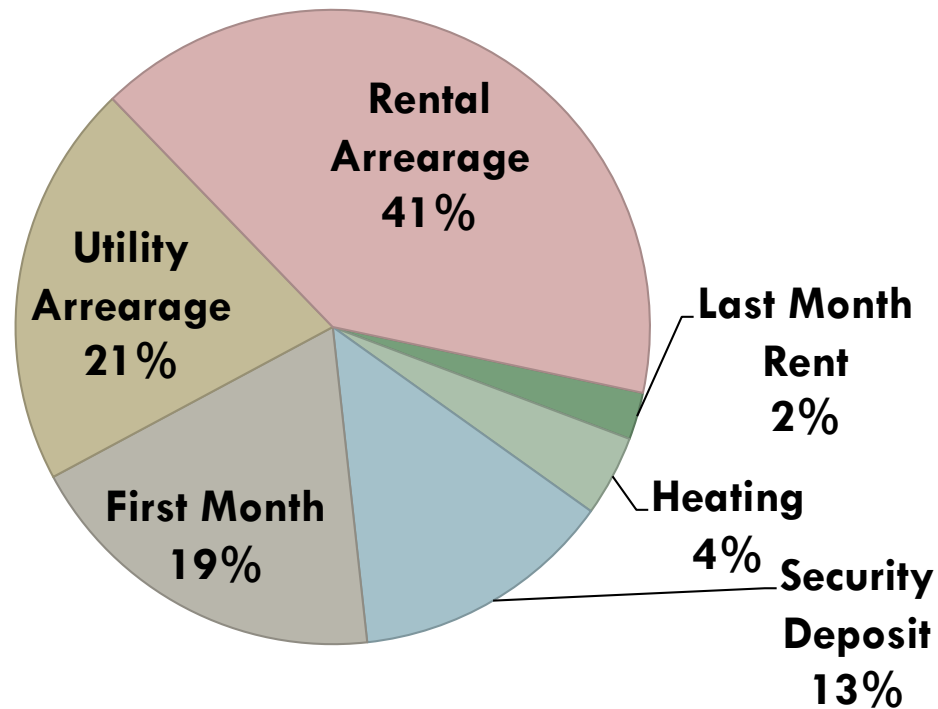
Flexible Prevention Funds are Cost Effective and Reduce Harm to Households

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CMHA FY12 Prevention Funds Allocation

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A total of **\$146,180.94** in prevention funds were distributed to **284 households.**

The average grant amount was just **\$515 per household.**

Sources of CMHA Prevention Funds

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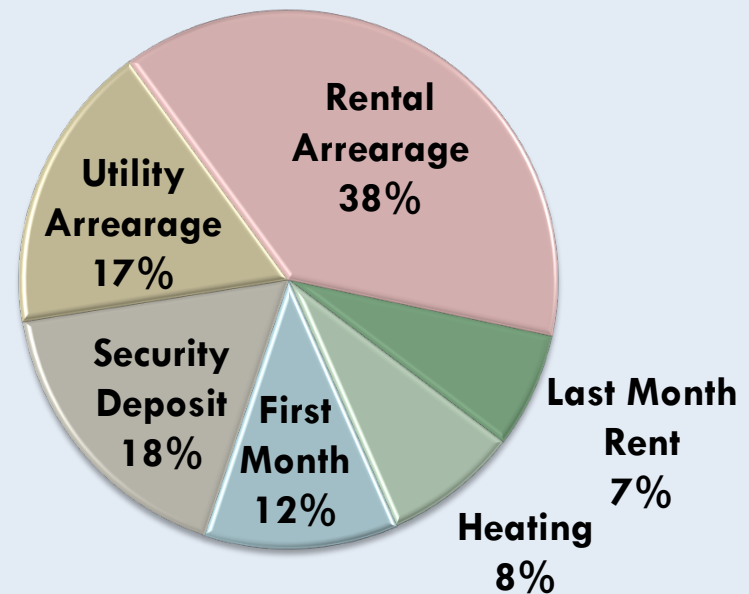
- 1) MA Rental Assistance for Families in Transition Program (RAFT)
- 2) United Way of America Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)
- 3) City of Worcester's Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG)
- 4) United Way of Central MA Safety Net Program and other local foundations
- 5) Local fundraising from area faith congregations

Hope For Housing

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- This is an Interfaith Coalition of 28 congregations dedicated to preventing family homelessness through partnerships with local grocery stores
- Since its inception, Hope for Housing has distributed over \$138,000 in prevention funds

In FY12, HFH raised **\$39,630** and assisted **80 households** at an average grant amount of **\$495 per family**



RAFT

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- With up to \$4,000 in prevention funds available to each eligible household, RAFT allows for longer term support for families facing a housing crisis
- As of 10/31/12, 445 households statewide have received RAFT assistance at an average cost of \$2,250 per household
 - 31 of those families were assisted through CMHA, at an average cost of \$1,887 per household

Questions?

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Image: Boston Globe